TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 9 totaled 18.5 billion ton-miles, up 5.8 percent from the 17.5 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 14 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 260.1 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended April 9 totaled 414,881, up 3.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and up 2.4 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 8.8 percent in the West, while loadings in the East were down 0.9 percent.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 13 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 7,391 cars (28.1 percent), coal loadings were up by 5,327 cars (4.8 percent), and metals and products increased by 2,241 cars (27.8 percent). Thirteen of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended April 2 totaled 108,169 trailers and/or containers, up 1.7 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 13 weeks of the year was 1,394,964 trailers and/or containers, up 4.9 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/9/88:

	Loadings in Week ended April 9, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	33,719	I	7,391	28.1	I	199	0.6
Other farm products	3,641	I	261	7.7	I	540	17.4
Metallic ores	17,076	D	360	2.1	I	1,274	8.1
Coal	117,390	I	5,327	4.8	I	6,832	6.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	16,404	I	952	6.2	I	1,379	9.2
Nonmetallic minerals	10,180	I	987	10.7	I	784	8.3
Grain mill products	10,454	D	238	2.2	I	630	6.4
Food and kindred products	10,608	I	60	0.6	I	85	0.8
Primary forest products	9,373	D	1,236	11.7	D	91	1.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,786	D	445	5.4	D	636	7.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,287	I	155	1.3	D	107	0.9
Chemicals and allied products	28,920	I	2,115	7.9	I	2,694	10.3
Petroleum products	5,257	I	538	11.4	I	979	22.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,132	I	299	2.8	I	602	5.7
Coke	6,023	I	1,246	26.1	I	702	13.2
Metals and products	10,298	I	2,241	27.8	D	1,588	13.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,409	D	2,327	11.2	I	917	5.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,776	I	108	1.2	D	429	4.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,412	D	314	11.5	D	253	9.5
All other carloads	74,736	D	2,371	3.1	D	4,877	6.1
Total Cars Loaded	414,881	I	14,389	3.6	I	9,636	2.4
Corresponding week of 1987	400,492						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (14 weeks)	5,778,762	5,468,969	I 5.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
13 weeks ended April 2	241.6	226.4	I 6.7
Week ended April 9	18.5	17.5	I 5.8
14 Weeks cumulative	260.1	243.9	I 6.6

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